Telephone Connections Provided Under Village Public Telephone Scheme

969. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 'Village Public Telephone Scheme' is not achieving the desired results;

(b) if so, the remedial measures proposed by Government;

(c) the number of telephone provided under this scheme during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the State-wise target for the current year under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Significant achievements have been made in providing Village Public Telephones in the rural areas of the country. However, there have been some slippages in achieving the targets due to non availability of suitable technology as MARR technology did not prove to be very reliable.

Remedial measures taken by the Government are as under:-

- Procurement of MARR systems has been stopped.
- New technologies like WLL, C-DoT TDMA/PMP and satellite have been identified. Process for procurement of the equipment is in progress.
- Task Force has been set up circle level to monitor the VPT progress.
- More & more new exchanges have been planned in the rural areas.

(c) and (d) 1,13,878 Village Public Telephones were provided during the last three years. State-wise VPT acheivement during the last three years and target for the current year is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Telephone Connections Provided Under Village Public Telephone Scheme

Village Public Telephones

Provided during last 3 years

S.No	States	Telephone Provided in villages during			Approved Target
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	30	56	55	8
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1566	526	15	0
3.	Assam	2484	2907	826	5000
4.	Bihar	2615	2137	4602	24651
5.	Gujarat	0	0	0	0
6.	Haryana	195	0	0	4
7.	Himachal Pradesh	1504	1208	2577	4000
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	437	763	448	2000
9.	Karnataka	3389	2521	2455	1265
10.	Kerala	0	0	0	0
11.	Madhya Pradesh	3878	3707	3546	5860
12.	Maharashtra	2725	2462	165	0
13.	Goa	36	10	0	0
14.	Arunachal	50	21	18	
15.	Manipur	115	48	44	
16.	Meghalaya	180	233	111	
17.	Mizoram	15	30	14	
18.	Nagaland	44	21	58	
19.	Tripura	70	51	58	5110
20.	Orissa	2402	2242	2102	14000
21.	Punjab	1327	173	39	0
22.	Rajasthan	3269	2585	548	0
23.	Tamil Nadu	2530	196	11	55
24.	Uttar Pradesh(E)	8618	8219	8303	18000
25.	Uttar Pradesh(W)	2197	2937	4440	9000
26.	West Bengal	3153	3955	3520	10900
27.	Sikkim	4	50	10	100

S. No.	States	Telephone Provided in villages during 1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	Approved Target 2000-2001
28.	Calcutta	22	0	0	47
29.	Delhi	0	0	0	0
	Total	42855	37058	33965	100000

Improvement of STD Network

970. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that frequently phones in Andhra Pradesh are not easily within reach from outside the State;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Vishakhapatnam could not be reached for a number of days from Delhi;

(c) whether the operational flaws have been noticed by the Department of Telecom;

(d) what steps are proposed to attend and rectify such flaws in the telecom sector;

(e) the reasons in delay for rectifying such technical problems by the DoT; and

(f) what safegurds will be instituted to improve the STD network in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Such complaint has not come to the notice of the Department.

(c) The calls from Delhi to Vishakhapatnam are routed through Hyderabad level-I TAX. The alternate routing is through Calcutta TAX. No operational flaw has come to the notice of the Department.

(d) and (e) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

(f) The STD network is monitored by the 'Network Management Centre' at Chennai and in case of any failure action is taken immediately to restore the circuits or reroute the traffic.